

**Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development**

**Report to Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board**

**Date: 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

**Subject: Crime and Disorder Scrutiny**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 In recent years, the role and responsibilities of overview and scrutiny have expanded significantly, with the function now responsible for investigating the delivery of services provided by a wide range of public, private and third-sector partners.
- 1.2 Provisions in the Police and Justice Act 2006, namely Section 19, 20 and 21, further extend the remit of local authorities to scrutinise crime and disorder functions and as from April 2009, the Council has been required to designate a Scrutiny Board to act as the Council's 'Crime and Disorder Committee'. The Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board has been assigned to fulfil this role.
- 1.3 In its capacity as a 'Crime and Disorder Committee', the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board has powers to review or scrutinise decisions made (or action taken), in connection with the discharge by the 'responsible authorities' of their crime and disorder functions. These are the authorities responsible for crime and disorder strategies, as detailed in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and include the Local Authority, the Police Force, the Police Authority, the Fire and Rescue Authority and the Primary Care Trust. In April 2010, the Probation Service became the sixth responsible authority.
- 1.4 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 also introduced Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (now referred to as Community Safety Partnerships) to develop and implement such strategies. In Leeds, *Safer Leeds* is the city's Community Safety Partnership.

- 1.5 Home Office guidance recommended that a protocol be developed jointly between the local Scrutiny function and the Community Safety Partnership to help provide guidance and a common understanding of how crime and disorder scrutiny will operate in practice. A protocol was therefore developed in Leeds and is attached for the information of the Scrutiny Board.

## **2.0 Introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners and Police and Crime Panels**

- 2.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 replaces police authorities with Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and introduces Police and Crime Panels to scrutinise the decisions and actions of the PCCs and assist them in carrying out their functions.
- 2.2 A PCC will be elected for every police force area in England and Wales, outside London. The appointment of the PCC will be made through a public election, which will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012. Once elected, the PCC will hold office for a period of 4 years (3.5 years in relation to the first term).
- 2.2 At its meeting in April 2012, the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board received a report from the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods outlining the main strands of the Act and the initial implications of the introduction of an elected West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner. It was also highlighted that local Crime and Disorder Committees would have no remit to directly scrutinise their PCCs as this role lies with the new Police and Crime Panels (PCPs). In view of this, importance was placed upon forging strong links between Crime and Disorder Committees and their respective PCP members in order to relay to the PCC any issues that have been raised through local scrutiny and vice-versa. A shadow West Yorkshire PCP has recently been established and is due to meet this month. Developing strong links between the PCP and local scrutiny committees has already been identified as a key topic within their work programme over the coming months.
- 2.3 Police and Crime Commissioners will be responsible for setting out a five year Police and Crime Plan, in liaison with the Chief Constable, based upon identified local priorities. The PCC will then have the power to commission services and award grants to any organisation or body they consider will support the delivery of the Plan and the priorities outlined within it. In order to qualify for funding, Community Safety Partnerships will need to ensure their local priorities are clearly reflected within the Police and Crime Plan. In doing so, Community Safety Partnerships are required to develop a business plan highlighting local community safety priorities and demonstrating the effectiveness of the activity it wishes the PCC to support. However, this Plan is also expected to reflect areas of shared priorities across the police force area.
- 2.4 The Safer Leeds Partnership is currently in the process of drafting this business plan. It is therefore proposed that the Scrutiny Board works with the Safer Leeds Partnership to ensure that the draft plan accurately reflects local community safety priorities, setting out a robust business case for future funding and services. However, as this business plan needs to be completed by September 2012, it is proposed that the Scrutiny Board establishes a working group to take forward this piece of work and report back to the full Scrutiny Board in due course.

### **3.0 Recommendations**

3.1 Members of the Scrutiny Board (Safer and Stronger Communities) are asked to

- (i) note the attached joint protocol between Scrutiny and the local Community Safety Partnership
- (ii) establish a working group of the Board to undertake work with the Safer Leeds Partnership to develop the Leeds Community Safety business plan in preparation for the introduction of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

### **4.0 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

- National Support Framework. Delivering Safer and Confident Communities. Guidance for the Scrutiny of Crime and Disorder Matters – England. Implementing Sections 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006. Home Office (May 2009).
- Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods to the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board on ‘Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 – Implications of Elected Police and Crime Commissioner’. 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2012.

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.